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LETTER DATED 9 MARCH 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit the following letter dated 3 March 1995 from Mr. Jose Eduardo dos Santos, President of the Republic of Angola, and request that this document be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Afonso VAN-DUNEM "Mbinda"
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 3 March 1995 from the President of Angola addressed to the Secretary-General

Under pretexts and reasons that vary according to the circumstances, the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA), as you know, has come to reject successive agreements and commitments that it has assumed. It began in Gbadolite, with the first attempt at a political solution to the Angolan conflict, and continued with the Bicesse Accord. Now the Lusaka Protocol runs a serious risk of not being implemented.

I would hope that it would be the unanimous conviction of the international community and yourself that we are facing an intolerable challenge from UNITA to all efforts undertaken to date to arrive at a solution to the Angolan conflict.

I believe that if this evidence receives your attention, you unquestionably will determine the necessity of a greater concentration of concrete actions by the entire international community, actions capable of contributing to the definitive end of the Angolan problem.

The United Nations has an important role to play in this chapter and should recognize that it has developed a praiseworthy record of efforts in search of solutions to the conflict that has persisted in Angola for 20 years. It is a country where the work of the United Nations Organization under your personal leadership continues to be a necessity to guarantee the full respect of the Lusaka Protocol and the subsequent re-establishment of peace in the country.

I reiterate this aspect because serious incidents are occurring that place the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol in danger and weaken the hopes for peace held by Angolans and the international community.

I would therefore like to bring to your attention the fact that serious denunciations were very recently made by a senior UNITA officer who left that organization on 19 February. The serious allegations include a strategic plan for Angola developed by Mr. Jonas Savimbi. It was revealed in a secret meeting with his military leaders immediately after he presided over the UNITA party congress at Bailundo.

The denunciations in truth serve to confirm and provide additional details on information already in the possession of the Government regarding UNITA preparations for a new war. They must be viewed with great seriousness in order that the United Nations may this time act urgently and with the firmness that the situation demands to make Jonas Savimbi commit himself in a serious manner and without delay to the peace process in Angola.

I bring to your attention the details below surrounding the principal actions that UNITA is developing at this moment in areas related to its intense preparations for war.

(a) Impeding of the free movement of people and goods through ambushes and the mining of roads;

(b) Attacks against United Nations and government aircraft, principally in the north of the country where a significant concentration of war matériel and other military equipment is taking place. With these attacks, UNITA intends to avoid observers of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) so that military movements in these areas will not be detected;

(c) The forced recruiting and training of young people by foreign instructors in various locations in the country;

(d) The deliberate lack of compliance with decisions made regarding the disengagement of forces in various locations throughout the country. This includes those areas that were prioritized by agreement at the two meetings of the Government and UNITA military chiefs in the presence of the head of the UNAVEM military organization and observers of the peace process. It is important to point out that, after the secret meeting previously mentioned, UNITA returned to occupy localities where it had already withdrawn forces under the disengagement agreement;

(e) The reactivation and enlargement of airfields, in locations such as Andulo and Nagage, to permit the landing of large transport aircraft with war matériel;

(f) Attacks against humanitarian assistance convoys, specifically of ICRC and Caritas.

These are only a few details that will permit you to verify the gravity of the situation and the tension that currently exists throughout the country. I am certain that this information will convince you to assume a firm and energetic position capable of forcing UNITA, and principally Mr. Jonas Savimbi, to change his attitude.

Angola is again facing a scenario identical to that which developed in March 1992, when the denunciations of important UNITA dissidents did not receive adequate attention. The allegations finally were confirmed in a dramatic way for Angolans with a return to war initiated by Mr. Jonas Savimbi after his electoral defeat.

The Government of Angola believes that there is still time to halt the military adventure that UNITA intends to launch once again - if the international community and the United Nations in particular make known to the UNITA organization in a clear and unequivocal manner that they are not prepared to tolerate its arrogance and disrespect for the pertinent decisions taken with respect to the Angolan conflict since 1992.

In view of the foregoing, the legitimate Government of Angola believes it would be useful and opportune to propose the following:

(a) Establish a period of time, to be rigorously observed by UNITA, for it to fulfil the provisions of the Lusaka Protocol not implemented as of this date,

a matter of its sole responsibility. In the same manner, time lost should be recovered;

(b) If, at the end of this period, UNITA maintains the same obstructionist attitude noted to date, consider the application of the second package of sanctions against UNITA in accordance with Security Council resolution 864 (1993);

(c) Given Zaire's non-observance of Security Council resolution 864 (1993), have the Sanctions Committee establish an effective monitoring programme for Zaire. We consider it imperative that Zaire be held responsible and warned of the penalties it will suffer as a consequence of the non-implementation of the Lusaka Protocol by UNITA. This derives from the role it has played in conceding logistics facilities and serving as a base of support for the destabilization of Angola;

(d) Announce the above measures as soon as deemed desirable by the current President of the Security Council.

I hope that you understand our concerns because, if this is the case, the suggestions presented above will be accepted as a good working basis for implementing measures that will be able to contribute to the salvation of the Angolan peace process.

I would like you to note that we have also verified outside the country worrisome signs of UNITA's preparation for war.

In this matter, I refer to actions that the UNITA organization is undertaking with the support of its lobbies to prepare a letter to be sent to you. Among other things, the letter will emphasize that the United Nations return to the provisions of the "triple zero" clause.

It is evident that this manoeuvre subtly conceals UNITA war plans and intends to tie the hands of the Government by reducing its defensive capacity so that UNITA can surprise it with military advantage. This is similar to the events which took place in 1991/92 when, according to the Bicesse Accord, the Government demobilized and disarmed the army - and then subsequently found it impossible to stop the military offensive unleashed by Jonas Savimbi in October 1992.

I reaffirm the position of the Government of Angola on this matter as expressed in my letter to you dated 14 February 1995.

(Signed) Jose Eduardo DOS SANTOS
President of the Republic of Angola